LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Previously Presented) A method for representing files, the method comprising:

receiving an identification of a plurality of files to be represented by a stack icon;

determining a stack size for the plurality of files;

comparing the stack size with a predefined range of stack icon sizes, wherein said range is subdivided into at least three stack size sub-ranges;

identifying one of the sub-ranges into which the determined stack size falls; and

retrieving a predetermined stack icon that has been assigned to the identified sub-range.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing a plurality of predefined stack icons, each of said stack icons corresponding to at least one stack size sub-range.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, further comprising storing an empty stack icon that displays an image distinct from other icons in the plurality of predefined stack icons.

4. (Canceled)

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein one of the sub-ranges is a maximum range identified by a minimum size, and the identifying one of the sub-ranges includes determining whether the determined stack size exceeds said size minimum

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising selecting the empty stack icon in the retrieving of the predetermined stack icon if the determined stack size is zero.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising generating different stack icons to represent files in different distinct libraries, wherein each of said stack icons displays information corresponding to a distinct library.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the retrieved stack icon visually identifies a file type of the plurality of files.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the visual identification of file type is a persistent overlay on the icon.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said retrieved stack icon includes a thumbnail image displaying contents of one of the plurality of files.

12. (Original) A computer readable medium storing the computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A method for representing a plurality of files, comprising:

receiving an identification of a plurality of files to be represented by a stack icon;

identifying a library with which said files are associated, said files in said library being of a common type, said type being one of word processing, image, address list contacts, and audio;

generating a library-based stack icon, said icon including information associated with said library, and a stack height corresponding to a size of said plurality of files, wherein said step of generating further comprises the step of selecting a predefined stack icon from a plurality of predefined stack icons associated with said library, where each of said predefined stack icons represents a different size of stack items;

assigning a first size range to a first one of said predefined stack icons, identifying a second one of said predefined stack icons as an empty stack icon, assigning a minimum size to a third one of said predefined stack icons, said third one of said predefined stack icons being a maximum size icon, wherein said step of selecting comprises the step of comparing a size of said plurality of files with said first range or said minimum size.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said information associated with said library identifies said common type of said library.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising generating a unique empty stack icon representing a stack having no files.

16. (Canceled)

17. (Canceled)

18. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said stack height depicts two items when said plurality of files contains more than two files.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising selecting the empty stack icon in response to a user request to display a stack having no files.

20. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of adding an overlay to said generated icon, said overlay identifying a property of the files represented by the generated icon.

21. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, wherein said step of generating further includes the step of including a thumbnail in said stack icon, said thumbnail depicting contents of one of said plurality of files.

22. (Original) A computer readable medium storing the computer executable instructions for performing the method of claim 13.

23. (Previously Presented) A system for representing a selected stack of files, the system comprising:

one or more computer-readable media storing sets of default stack icons, each stored set of default stack icons representing and portraying information relevant to a corresponding library, wherein each stored set of default stack icons includes multiple icons, each included icon representing a range of stack sizes;

one or more computer-readable media storing computer-executable instructions that cause a computer to perform the following:

determining a stack size of a selected plurality of files and a library to which the selected files belong;

comparing the stack size to a plurality of stack size boundaries that divide a stack size range into three or more sub-ranges, said stack size boundaries being assigned to the library to which the selected files belong; and

selecting a default stack icon that has been assigned to a sub-range that includes the stack size.

24. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, wherein each stored set of default icons comprises a plurality of stack icons, each icon corresponding to a different range of stack sizes.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 24, said plurality of stack icons further comprising a unique empty stack icon that displays a distinct image.

26. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, said first one or more computer-readable media further storing a set of property based icons for at least one library,

wherein the property based icons include an overlay indicating a common property of files represented by an underlying stack icon.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, said computer-executable instructions further comprising instructions for generating a set of custom thumbnail icons for at least one selected library, wherein the custom thumbnail icons include at least one image from a stack within the at least one selected library.

28. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 23, said computer-executable instructions further comprising instructions for counting the number of files in a selected stack and displaying the number adjacent to or on the icon.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 10, wherein said overlay is a symbol provided by an application that owns the file type.

30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein said property in said overlay identifies an application that owns the file type.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 30, wherein said overlay is provided by the application that owns the file type.